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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Maine State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Maine provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- [Housing Benefits](#)
- [Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Veteran Benefits](#)

Maine Veteran Housing Programs

Maine Veterans' Homes

To qualify for admission, the applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for no less than 180 days.

Eligible veterans must either be residents of Maine at the time of application, or have resided in Maine at the time of entry into the United States Armed Forces. Spouses, widows, widowers, and gold star parents of eligible veterans may also be eligible for admission. Gold star parents are parents of a son or a daughter killed in the line of duty.

Maine Financial Assistance Benefits

Veterans Small Business Loan Program

To learn about the Veterans Small Business Loan Program, visit the FAME website.

Property Tax Exemption

This bulletin has been prepared in order to outline the complex provisions relating to property tax exemption of veterans. Particular notice should be given to the different classifications of exemption so that the municipality may claim the appropriate reimbursement from the State for taxes lost by reason of such exemption.

Prior to April 1, 1978, municipalities were not reimbursed for property taxes lost due to the granting of veterans exemptions. In 1978, the Constitution was amended to reimburse municipalities not less than 50% of property tax revenue loss because of statutory property tax exemptions enacted after April 1, 1978.

Maine Education Benefits

Veterans Dependents Education Benefits Program

Spouses of veterans who are attending state-supported post secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs. Room and board may not be waived.

Children of veterans who are attending state-supported post secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's and bachelor's programs. The tuition waiver provided under this paragraph may be reduced by an amount necessary to ensure that the value of this waiver, combined with all other grants and benefits received by the student, does not exceed the total cost of education. Room and board may not be waived.

A child of a veteran has 6 academic years from the date of first entrance to complete 8 semesters. The director may waive the limit of 6 consecutive academic years when the Recipient's education has been interrupted by severe medical disability or illness making continued attendance impossible.

Other Maine State Veteran Benefits

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery

The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System consists of four cemeteries. One of which is located in Caribou, two in Augusta and one in Springvale. The State will, without charge, open and close the grave and furnish perpetual care. Military rank or civilian stature will not be given consideration in selection or size of individual graves. Consequently, all graves will be equal in size and type. Selection of the lot will be made by the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System office in the order that burial requests occur. Eligible dependents will be buried adjacent to the plot of the buried veteran.

Educational Benefits

Available to dependents of veterans who entered the service from Maine or have been a resident of Maine for 5 years immediately preceding application for this benefit. The veteran must be 100% service-connected, permanently and totally disabled, killed in action, or died as a result of injuries suffered in-service.

Spouses of veterans are entitled to receive up to 120 credit hours of educational benefits and have 10 years from the date of first entrance to complete the program. Children of veterans have 6 academic years from the date of first entrance to complete 120 credits. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 or "C" grade point average to continue receiving educational benefits. If a student's grade point average falls below 2.0 or a "C", then the student has one semester to bring the grade point average up to at least a 2.0 or a "C". If after that semester the student's grade point average is below 2.0 or a "C", the student loses educational benefits under this paragraph until the student achieves a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a "C".

This benefit is only available at the University of Maine System, Maine Community Colleges and Maine Maritime Academy. Private colleges, out-of-state universities, prep schools, adult education and correspondence courses are not covered under this program.

Recreational Licenses

A disabled veteran who has a service connected disability evaluated at 50% or more may obtain a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt, including archery, muzzle load, bear, migratory bird, pheasant, spring/fall wild turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antler less deer permit, and upon meeting the qualifications, a license to guide.

This license is available to disabled veterans who are residents of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

This license(s) remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirements.

State Park Fees

Any disabled veteran displaying on the veteran's motor vehicle special designating plates or placards issued in accordance with Maine law is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

Veteran License Plates

To find Veteran Plates Issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, visit <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/vetplatesavailable.htm>.

Benefits Available from the Division of Motor Vehicles

Qualified veterans can get a special veteran plate containing the disability symbol to enable them to park in designated parking spaces. The new plate is an expanded design of the standard "Special Veteran" plate which bears the red "V". This new plate also bears the red "V" on the left hand side of the plate and has the universal disability symbol on the far right. This plate does not replace the current "Disabled Veteran" plate which bears a flag and is available to those veterans who qualify based on a service connected disability.

Visit the [Bureau of Maine Veterans Services](#) website for more information on any of these programs.